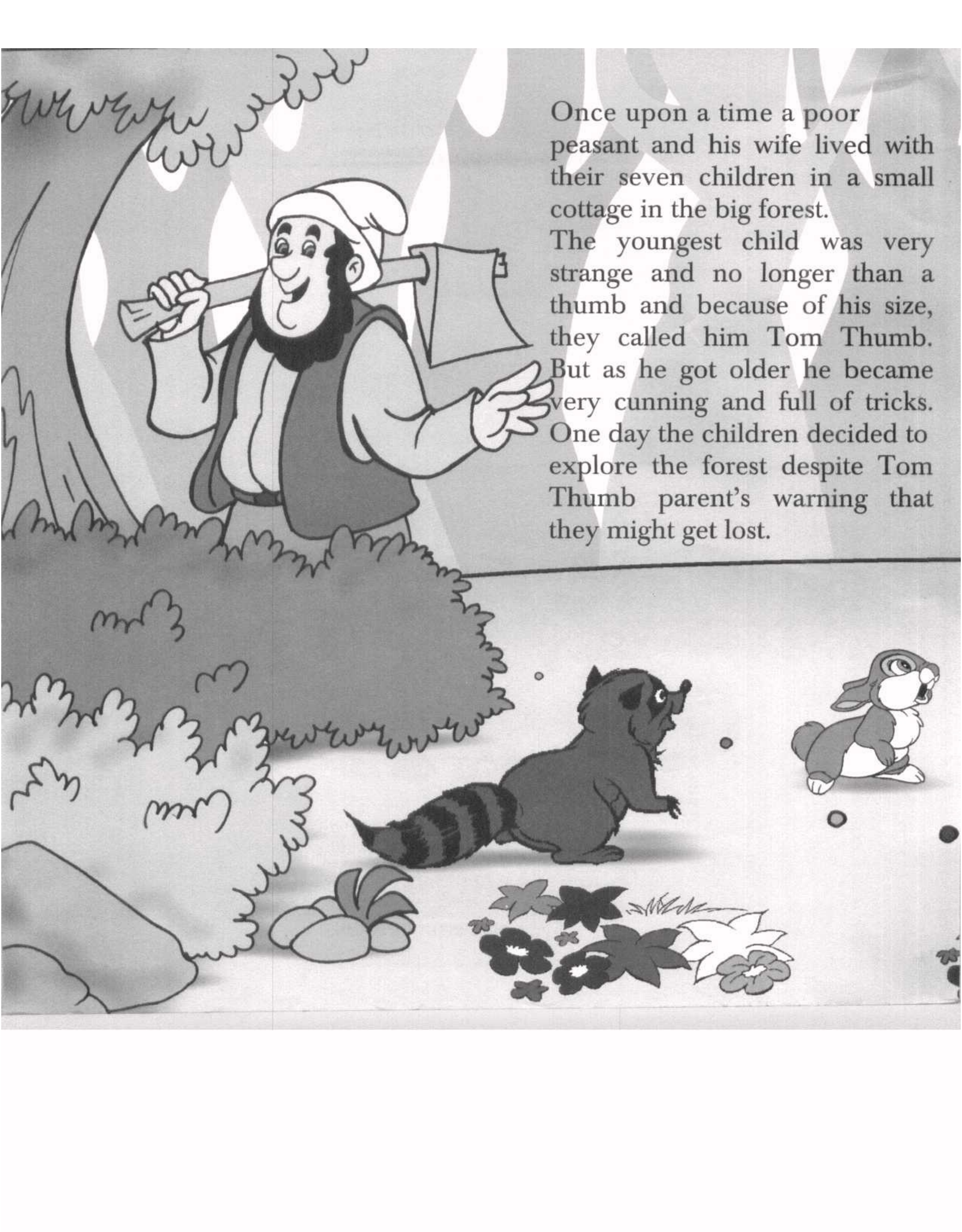
Classic Tales
Thumbling



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New Horizons

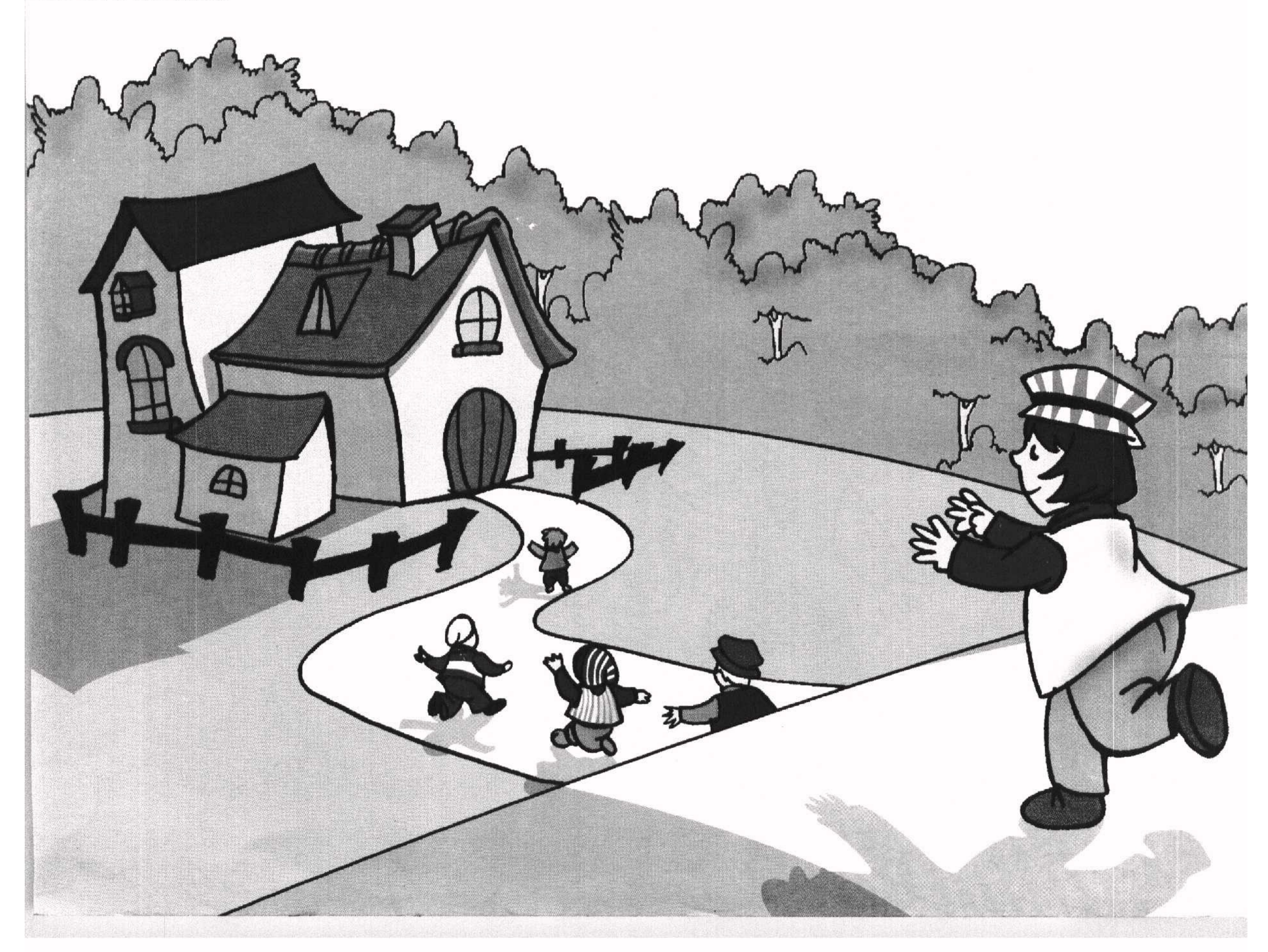


Once upon a time a poor peasant and his wife lived with their seven children in a small cottage in the big forest.
The youngest child was very strange and no longer than a thumb and because of his size, they called him Tom Thumb. But as he got older he became very cunning and full of tricks. One day the children decided to explore the forest despite Tom Thumb parent's warning that they might get lost.

Tom Thumb filled his pocket with coloured pebbles and went with his brothers to the forest. He dropped the pebbles from his pocket one by one, as they walked, so that he should be able to find his way home if he got lost. The boys went into the forest.



The forest was thick and very dark. When the darkness fell, the children began to cry. Tom Thumb, however, did not cry. "Do not weep, my brothers," he said encouragingly. "Only wait and we shall soon be able to find our way home." Following the pebbles he scattered, the children soon reached their father's house.

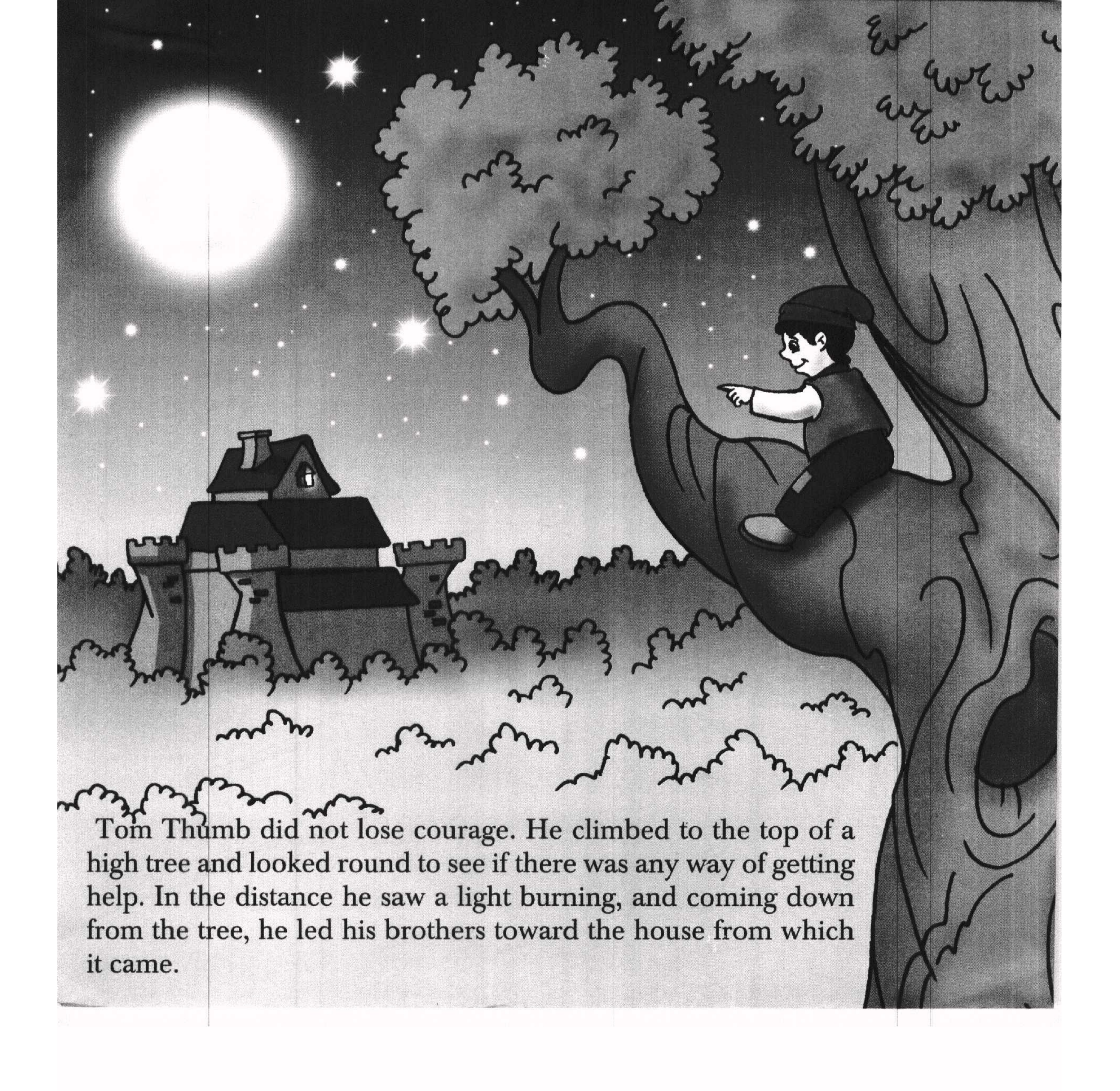


Their parents were delighted to have their little children with them again. The children promised them not to go into the forest again; however, they soon began to think about it again. This time, Tom Thumb didn`t find pebbles, so he thought he would manage to make his piece of bread do as well as the pebbles, by breaking it up and dropping the crumbs as he went.



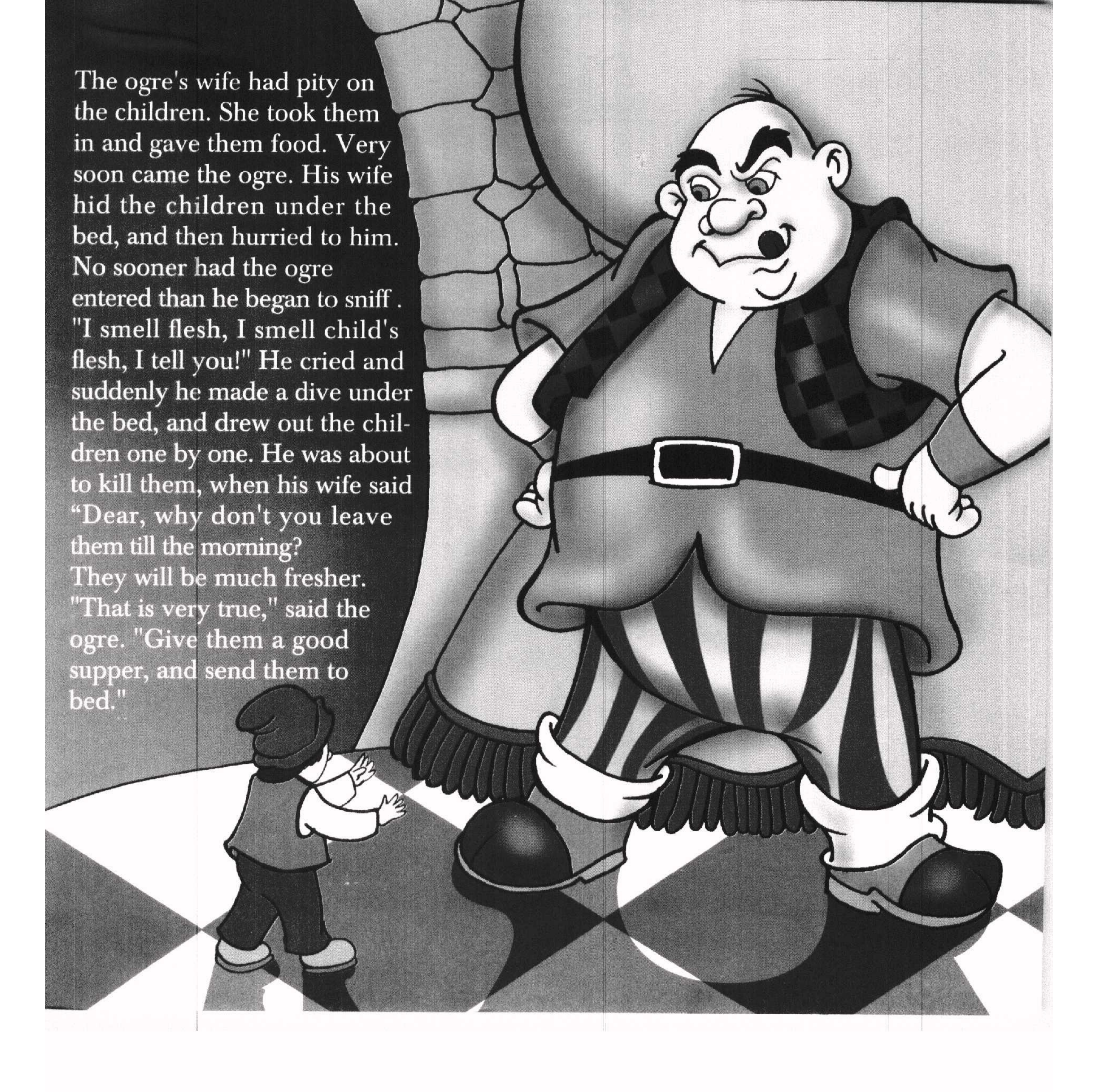
For the second time, the children got lost. When Tom Thumb came to look for the crumbs of bread, none of them was left. The birds had eaten them all up, and the poor children were lost in the forest, with no possible means of finding their way home.





Tom Thumb did not lose courage. He climbed to the top of a high tree and looked round to see if there was any way of getting help. In the distance he saw a light burning, and coming down from the tree, he led his brothers toward the house from which it came.

When they knocked at the door, it was opened by a pleasant-looking woman, and Tom Thumb told her they were poor children who had lost their way, and begged her to give them a night's shelter. "Alas, my poor children!" said the woman, "You do not know where you have come to. This is the house of an ogre who eats up little boys and girls."



The ogre's wife had pity on the children. She took them in and gave them food. Very soon came the ogre. His wife hid the children under the bed, and then hurried to him. No sooner had the ogre entered than he began to sniff . "I smell flesh, I smell child's flesh, I tell you!" He cried and suddenly he made a dive under the bed, and drew out the children one by one. He was about to kill them, when his wife said "Dear, why don't you leave them till the morning? They will be much fresher. "That is very true," said the ogre. "Give them a good supper, and send them to bed."



As soon as Tom Thumb heard the ogre snoring, he rousedhis brothers, and told hem to follow him. In the morning, when the ogre found what happened, he put on his seven-league boots and went to catch the children. They watched him oming in fear.

Tom Thumb told them to hide in a hollow place under a large rock. The ogre, seeing nothing of the children, sa down to rest himself. He was tired, and soon fell fa asleep. Tom Thumb told his brothers to run home; whic they did. Then he crept up to the ogre, pulled off the seven-league boots and put them on his own feet.

Tom Thumb went back to the ogre`s house . He told his wife that the ogre sent him to get some money from her and showed her the ogre`s seven-league boots just to believe him. The ogre`s wife gave Tom Thumb all the ogre`s money. Finally, he went home with all ogre's money and lived happily with his family.

